

The State Journal

Official Paper of the City of Topeka.

By FRANK P. MACLENNAN.

TERMS OF SUBSCRIPTION.

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By mail, one year 3.60
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GREATEST IN KANSAS.

AVERAGE DAILY CIRCULATION:

8,806

For the three full summer months of 1894—an increase of over fifty per cent in one year.

OUR PROOF:

The issue of the TOPEKA DAILY STATE JOURNAL for the three months, viz., from the 1st day of June, 1894, to the 1st day of August, 1894, inclusive, have been as follows:

DAY	June	July	August
1	8,498	8,720	8,640
2	8,312	8,720	8,670
3	8,312	8,720	8,690
4	8,312	8,720	8,690
5	8,312	8,720	8,690
6	8,312	8,720	8,690
7	8,312	8,720	8,690
8	8,312	8,720	8,690
9	8,312	8,720	8,690
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25	8,312	8,720	8,690
26	8,312	8,720	8,690
27	8,312	8,720	8,690
28	8,312	8,720	8,690
29	8,312	8,720	8,690
30	8,312	8,720	8,690
31	8,312	8,720	8,690
Total	223,508	241,170	231,596

*Sunday, no issue.
The total number of copies printed in the three months named above, 695,679, divided by 79, the number of issues, shows the average to be 8,806. This is a correct report of the issue of the TOPEKA DAILY STATE JOURNAL for the three months as stated.

(Signed) *Frank P. MacLennan*
Editor and Proprietor.

Sworn to and subscribed Sept. 11, 1894.
S. M. GARDENHIRE,
Clerk of the District Court,
Shawnee County, Kansas.

The STATE JOURNAL is the only paper in Kansas receiving the Full Day Associated Press.

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The STATE JOURNAL has the handsomest and most complete web stereotyping perfecting press.

Eastern office, 73 Tribune Building, New York, Perry Lukens, Jr., manager.

Weather Indications.

WASHINGTON, Sept. 25.—Forecast till 8 p. m. Wednesday.—For Kansas: Fair, slightly warmer Wednesday morning in northwestern portion; southerly winds.

This campaign is getting to be one of the quietest ever seen in Kansas. Are both parties on a still hunt.

A TOPEKA man suggests that that land in southern Kansas that is sinking down is probably giving way to the weight of mortgages on it.

PANTATA BREIDENBACH is providing very little sensational literature lately; in that particular, he is just a length or two behind Pantata Ioland.

If the Populist officials did not all take railroad passes, perhaps the railroads could afford to do something in "maximum freight rates" themselves, without legislation.

KANSAS needs the real cranks at the head of affairs. People who won't take passes because they think it isn't right, and people who enforce the laws because they are the laws. That's the kind of cranks we want.

WHAT'S disagreeable story this is that comes from Dr. McCassey's castle of wretchedness west of town. A poor old soldier's chair is taken away from him and given to one of the members of the state board of charities.

HASN'T Pete Kline paid out another \$10,000 to somebody between sunset last evening and sunrise this morning. If all the stories about Pete paying money to somebody or other are true, he has probably paid out a million or so at least.

WONDER if the TOPEKA JOURNAL man will come down to hear Governor McKinley in this city, October 3.—Hutchinson Interior Herald.

No, indeed; Governor McKinley is going to speak at Topeka pretty nearly if not quite as long as at Hutchinson. The capital city never gets left.

WHEN Gov. McKinley arrives here it is to be hoped the committee in charge of him will not waste any time by making a "royal progress" from the depot to the state house. As the Governor has only an hour to stay here, he should be driven as rapidly as possible to the state house, so that he can speak to his audience at length.

A KANSAS Democratic paper has pulled down the Democratic ticket. A Populist paper has put up the Republican ticket, a Republican paper has bolted, and so it goes. The independent editor and the independent voter is playing smash with party lines this year; but good will come of it all. When people begin to think, then the right is sure to prevail. Frauds will be turned out of office, and reforms will be begun and carried through.

THE dispatch sent out by the Associated Press from Topeka the other day in reference to railroad passes and saying that the next legislature would pass a law abolishing their use by officials was published in the Journal, but we disclaim responsibility for it. In the next legislature of Kansas there will be 103 men, and every one of them will have a pass. In addition to that he will be able to get a pass for a friend if he asks for it. Does any one suppose for a moment that the members of the next legislature are going to be such angelic creatures that they will begin reform by taking their own passes away? The men who entertain such an idea are too innocent for this world.—Lawrence Journal.

The pass system has been abolished in other states and there is no reason to believe that it will not be in this state. In New York, the constitutional convention has incorporated a provision in the constitution that no public official shall be allowed to accept a railroad pass. The members of the legislature even though each may have a pass will be compelled by public opinion to vote for an anti-pass law, provided public opinion manifests itself strongly enough.

SALINA Republican: We cannot see how any person can object to the war the Topeka Journal is making upon officials holding railroad passes. It may affect the Populist party more severely, as that organization is supposed to be pledged against receiving favors from railroads. But let the war involve whom it may, Populist, Republican or Democrat, it is an agitation which warmly meets the approval of the people in all the states. The recent action of the constitutional convention of New York in this matter will serve only to hasten the day when no public official will think of placing himself under obligations to a railway by accepting favors from it.

SMITH COUNTY Pioneer: A reporter for the STATE JOURNAL has brought to light the fact that all the Populist state officers not only have railroad passes and use them, but that they are also supplied with Pullman passes. This undoubtedly accounts for the reduction in the assessment of the Pullman Palace Car company in this state last year and also furnishes a reason why these official representatives of the down trodden white slaves of Kansas can ride in palace cars while the poor "be jabbers" can walk.

KANSAS PARAGRAPHS.

A Dunlap family is enjoying a visit from Mrs. Tinkelpaw.

The May fever is so bad at Council Grove that one young lady calls herself Mollie Maginnes.

Burdick doesn't seem to know when it is well off; it is clamoring for more campaign speakers.

The only thing that is apt to detract from the McKinley meeting at Hutchinson is the Pinney county fair at Garden City.

The running over of a boy named Brewer at the Iola fair grounds comes as the sequel to the announcement that water would be free.

Garden City merchants are shipping orders of vegetables as far east as Newton and yet people speak of all western Kansas as burned up.

Rev. Mr. Ailing is a preacher in Allen county and tells the people the Lord has chosen the weak things of the world to confound the mighty.

A fine view of the late eclipse of the moon was had at Lyons, which is the only good thing that has yet been discovered in the absence of rain clouds.

Noah's family might have a partial reunion in Kansas. Hiram is married at Ft. Scott, Japhet is running a livery stable at Iola, but Shem is still unaccounted for.

If all the small boys knew what big, juicy watermelons were raised near Garden City it wouldn't be long before that country had the greatest influx of young blood in history.

Editor Gilmore of Freedom thought when the corn crop failed that he could worry along somehow, but when the news was brought in that there were no pecans his courage failed.

The Iola Register publishes a long article to show the kind of "metal" that is in a former Iola boy. Editor Scott doubtless had his mind full of the parity of gold and silver when he wrote the headlines.

A man of Little River, Rice county, has invented a bolt grip, which, among other things, will hold a monkey wrench. The thing most needed is something to keep a man from swearing when the wrench slips off.

The discussion of free silver and the setting of all "feenancial" questions by word of mouth have become so distasteful to the Wilson county bank at Freedom that the officers have had the iron railing in front spiked.

Lyons people have had their faith in humanity shaken. One man who travels all over the state and talks politics a great deal told them Morrill would be elected by 35,000 plurality and another man who does the same thing came out and told them Lovelling would be elected by 20,000.

One of the editors of the Council Grove Republican has the piece of carpet on which Thos. B. Reed's feet rested while he sat in the speaker's chair in congress. The Democrats whom Tom Reed sat on when speaker would be a great deal more interesting curiosities.

FEAR THE CZAR'S DEATH.

European Business Centers Think His Successor Might Break the Peace.

LONDON, Sept. 25.—The European bourses are affected by the czar's health as he is now recognized as one of the strongest supporters of peace and it is feared that in the event of his death his successor would seize the opportunity to secure naval ports on the Pacific or to enlarge his boundaries in the direction of the Pamirs at the expense of China, either of which steps is believed would easily precipitate war.

On the other hand a dispatch from St. Petersburg today denies the report that Russian troops have gone to Corea or that Russia has the intention of doing anything calculated to disturb the peace of Europe.

62.50 Per Ton.
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THE BLAZING WOODS.

THIS YEAR'S VISITATION THE WORST SINCE THE HORRORS OF 1881.

Next to an Earthquake or a Volcanic Eruption, a Great Forest Fire is in Appearance the Most Striking of Natural Phenomena. Some Strange Details.

Forest fires rank among the most impressive, most destructive of natural phenomena. Some of these wild riots of the elements that we call cyclones and tornadoes, and sometimes floods, do quite as much damage to the works of man, but there is no manifestation which equals the forest fire in terror inspiring grandeur unless it be a volcanic eruption or an earthquake. There are forest fires in the United States every year, and every year the losses of property are considerable, but nothing ap-



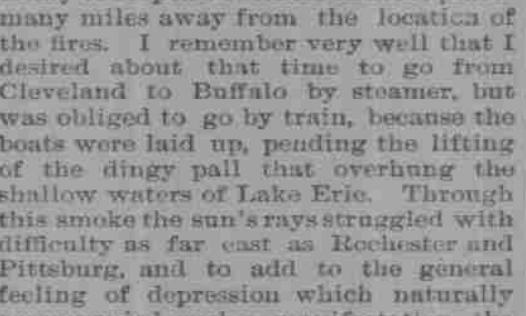
ON THE ROAD TOWARD SAFETY.

proaching the fires that have this year laid waste parts of Minnesota, Michigan and Wisconsin, wiping out Hinckley, Phillips and other towns, has been suffered since the memorable Michigan conflagration of 1881. Even that catastrophe did not come with such awful suddenness, and it is doubtful if there was as great loss of life.

It will probably never be known how many lives were lost in the fierce woods blazes of 1881. Some estimates placed the number as high as 1,000, while others held that 800 would be nearer right. At all events, the experiences of those who were inhabitants of the burned over district were of the most horrifying nature, and the destruction of property was so great as to seriously put back the development of the Badger State. The fires broke out a little earlier than this year. Portions of five counties, all lying north of Port Huron and covering a territory 75 miles long, were swept by the flames, but Huron and Sanilac suffered most. There had been a severe drought, extending over a large part of the country, for weeks. This drought had been worse perhaps in Michigan than elsewhere.

Here and there small fires broke out during the last weeks of August; but, as the woods had not yet become thoroughly dried, these early blazes were extinguished without much difficulty, and no great alarm was felt till about Sept. 4. By that time the smoke from the burning forests had spread over nearly every part of the southern peninsula of Michigan and portions of adjoining states and Canada. On that day news was received for the first time that there had been loss of life. Just where it had occurred was not reported, but the story was not doubted, for the smoke got speedily so thick as to make it necessary to suspend business in some places many miles away from the localities of the fires. I remember very well that I desired about that time to go from Cleveland to Buffalo by steamer, but was obliged to go by train, because the boats were laid up, pending the lifting of the dingy pall that overhung the shallow waters of Lake Erie. Through this smoke the sun's rays struggled with difficulty as far east as Rochester and Pittsburgh, and to add to the general feeling of depression which naturally accompanied such a manifestation the heat, that had been oppressive for days, grew more intense. In some localities the mercury reached 100 degrees and over, and it was realized generally that unless relief in the form of rain came soon the situation must speedily be most serious. If before the rain came, it was pointed out, the wind should arise, there must be great losses, and the entire nation seemingly waited in breathless suspense. Would it be the blessed, saving rain or the scorching, destroying wind?

The question was answered Sept. 7, when fierce gale arose, driving the flames before it with the speed of an express train. Nothing could hold its place before the leaping, savage fire; nothing slower than steam could outrun it, and there were many instances of trains just barely escaping. The situation of num-



STANDING OUT IN THE LANE.

bers of families that had remained too long by their homes was pitiable in the extreme. Men who had fondly believed their farms, although surrounded by woods, far enough removed from the seat of danger to be safe were caught in the fields and could not by any manner of means get to their houses in time to save their wives and children.

An appalling number of men caught in this way failed even to save themselves. Others groped and fought their way home, only to find, in place of the farmhouse and buildings, representing the work perhaps of half a lifetime,

heaps of smoldering ashes or blazing furnaces of fire. Some families, more fortunate, managed to make a start on the road toward safety with wagons laden with such household goods as could be hastily gathered up, only to be overtaken by the greedy flames before they had gone a mile. Wives whose husbands failed to come to their aid hastily gathered their children in their arms and ran to the nearest water, whatever that might be. In more than one instance the family well, resorted to as the only place of safety, became a tomb for the refugees, the fire drawing the air from the depths and the victims suffocating from inhalation of mephitic gases.

Hundreds, like the wretches who were caught near Hinckley this year, rushed into ponds and marshes. Some saved themselves in this way. Others died miserably, immersed in mud to their nostrils, but smothered at last by the fire's consuming breath. Some escaped almost miraculously, but maimed. One poor fellow lost both eyes and both feet, yet saved his life, an almost useless thing. One woman's face was actually baked by the flames, so that the flesh fell off, leaving her countenance in appearance like a ghastly grinning death's face, yet it was said that she would ultimately recover. The loss of life was not nearly so great in the vicinity of the shore of Lake Huron as elsewhere, for those living there could find a safe refuge in its sheltering waters, though the sufferings of some who saved themselves in that manner were almost beyond racial. They were obliged to stand as far out in the lake as they could, every now and then completely immersing themselves in order to keep from being burned by the sparks and brands that were constantly falling about them. Some there were who lost their lives from exposure and some from drowning. Many who were left alive by the fire died afterward from nervous strain and physical exhaustion, and there were not a few who became insane after their danger was past, as have some who passed through the fires of this year. Nor were there lacking cases of heroism every whit as striking as that displayed by Jim Wood, the engineer of the train that fled from the flames that were destroying Hinckley; but, as is usually the case, these brave men's names are mostly preserved only in the memories of their friends, instead of being held up forever before the world for its admiration.

Fire always plays queer tricks when it gets beyond human control, and the strange freaks of the blazes of the Michigan fires of 1881 were such as would have belief if they were not vouched for by unimpeachable witnesses. In one village that was surrounded by the woods, as was Hinckley, every building but the church and the saloon was destroyed. A field of grain was left intact near the town of western Michigan, though everything else on the farm of which it



HORSES FOUND STILL HARNESSSED.

was a part was licked up. A wagon in which a family was fleeing for safety lost one wheel only by fire, and the horses were found still harnessed after it was all over, while the fugitives who fled from the vehicle when it began to blaze were lost. They took refuge in a neighboring water hole and were smothered, as were so many others. If these had remained by their wagon, they would probably have been saved.

The forest fires of 1871, the year of the great Chicago fire, were as widespread and as terrible in their grandeur as those of 10 years later, but they did nothing like as much damage, because they were not located in such thickly settled regions. It has been claimed that the loss of life was greater, but as to that it is hardly possible to speak with certainty. It must always indeed be difficult to accurately estimate in such cases either as to life or property, for the burned over regions are always remote, and many lives are lost of which the world never learns. The response of the charitable to the appeals of the suffering both years was instantaneous and liberal to a degree. In 1881 the Red Cross society, under the direction of that good woman, Clara Barton, served the nation admirably as a medium for the distribution of the people's givings, as it has always in such times ever since its organization.

Other years memorable for great forest fires were 1848, 1854, 1884, 1887 and 1889. None of the fires of the earlier years was so serious as have been those of the later ones for the obvious reason that not so much damage could be done in a new settlement as in an older one, but they entailed great suffering and hardship nevertheless. In 1854 the smoke was carried to great distances without being dissipated, and some very curious effects resulted. The fires were earlier and more prevalent east that year than they have been this year. In May they raged with great fury in Pennsylvania, and one day the smoke from the burning pine woods of the Keystone State fairly settled down on New York city, making the streets of the eastern metropolis so dark that it was necessary to light the gas for an hour in order to continue business, while the smell of burning pine was quite apparent.

Can't Hurt Iron Ships.

The East Indian shipworm will in a few months destroy any wooden vessel by eating out the interior of the beams and planks. They will be left a mere shell that can be shattered by the fist.

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Fancy Granite Cloth,
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46-in. Extra Henrietta,
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The Largest and Best Assortment of Black Goods Ever shown. Regular \$1.00 values—

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In Colored Dress Goods, An immense Assortment in the Newest and Most correct Fabrics. Special Values, \$1, 75c, 58c, 50c, 48c, 39c Per Yard.

Beautif'l Corset Cloths, Fine English Checks, Elegant Diagonals, Pretty Scotch Mixtures, Fine Novelty Effect.

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Gents' Extra Quality Ribbed Shirts and Drawers, equal any usually sold at \$1.25—For 75c.

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